

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 15-18, 20-26, 28, 51 and 52 and add new claims 55 and 56 so that the claims read as follows:

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:

a front body panel having a length defined along a longitudinal direction and opposite side edges;

a rear body panel opposing said front body panel; and

a pair of unitary single fastening member members each comprising at least two independently moveable and integrally formed tab members each having an engagement portion independently releasably and refastenably engaging said front body panel, wherein said tab members of at least one of said fastening members extend laterally inward in the same direction from the same one of said side edges of said front body panel and wherein said tab members are offset from each other in said longitudinal direction, each of said engagement portions having an engagement length, wherein the sum of said engagement lengths of each of said fastening members is at least about 20% of said front body panel length, wherein each of said fastening member members comprises a terminal edge opposite said tab members, wherein each of said fastening members is non-integral with and formed separately from said front and rear body panels, and wherein each of said fastening members comprises a portion positioned between said terminal edge and said tab members fixedly secured to at least one of said front and rear body panels wherein said terminal edges of said pair of fastening members are spaced from each other.

16. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 15 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths of each of said fastening members is less than about 90% of said front body panel length.

17. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 16 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths of each of said fastening members is between about 30% and about 80% of said front body panel length.

18. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 17 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths of each of said fastening members is between about 40% and about 60% of said front body panel length.

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:
a front body panel having a length defined along a longitudinal direction and opposite side edges;

a pair of unitary fastening member members each comprising at least two independently moveable tab members each having an engagement portion independently releasably and refastenably engaging said front body panel at a pair of attachment locations, wherein said tab members of at least one of said fastening members extend laterally inward in the same direction from the same one of said side edges of said front body panel and wherein said tab members are offset from each other in said longitudinal direction, each of said engagement portions having an engagement length, wherein the sum of said engagement lengths of each of said fastening members is at least about 20% of said front body panel length, wherein each of said fastening member members comprises a carrier member having a length and a terminal edge opposite said tab members; and

a rear body panel comprising opposite [[a]] side edge edges each having a length fixedly secured to ~~said one~~ corresponding ones of said side edges of said front body panel along ~~a seam~~ opposite seams each having a length, ~~said seam being formed separately from said fastening member~~ seams each laterally spaced from said pairs of attachment locations.

21. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 20 wherein said length of each of said carrier ~~member~~ members is at least about 50% of said length of at least one of said ~~seam~~ seams.

22. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 21 wherein said length of each of said carrier ~~member~~ members is at least about 90% of said length of said length of at least one of said ~~seam~~ seams.

23. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 20 wherein said length of each of said carrier ~~member~~ members is at least about 50% of said length of at least one of said side edges ~~edge~~ of said rear body panel.

24. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 23 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 90% of said length of at least one of said side edges ~~edge~~ of said rear body panel.

25. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 20 wherein said carrier member of each fastening member is fixedly secured to said rear body panel.

26. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 20 wherein said front body panel comprises a pair of side portions each defining one of said opposite side edges and a landing member extending between said side portions, wherein said at least two engagement portions of each fastening member are releasably engaged with said landing member, and wherein said carrier member of each fastening member is fixedly secured to a corresponding one of said side portions of said front body panel.

27. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 20 said front and rear body panels have substantially the same width.

28. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:
a body panel having a length defined a longitudinal direction and opposite side edges; and
a fastening member comprising a single unitary carrier member defining at least two independently moveable and integrally formed tab members extending laterally inward in the same direction from the same one of said side edges of said body panel and an engagement portion disposed on each of said tab members and wherein said tab members are offset from each other in said longitudinal direction, wherein said engagement portions independently releasably and refastenably engage said body panel, and wherein each of said engagement portions has an engagement length, wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is at least about 20% of said body panel length, wherein said carrier member comprises a terminal edge opposite said tab members, wherein said carrier member is non-integral with and formed separately from said body panel, and wherein said carrier member comprises a portion positioned between said terminal edge and said tab members fixedly secured to said body panel.

29. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 28 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is less than about 90% of said body panel length.

30. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 29 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is between about 30% and about 80% of said body panel length.

31. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 30 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is between about 40% and about 60% of said body panel length.

32. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 28 wherein said body panel comprises a front body panel, wherein said carrier member comprises a base portion,

wherein said tab members extend from said base portion, and wherein said base portion has a length, and further comprising a rear body panel comprising a side edge having a length secured to said one of said side edges of said front body panel along a seam having a length, wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 50% of said length of said seam.

33. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 32 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 90% of said length of said seam.

34. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 32 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 50% of said length of said side edge of said rear body panel.

35. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 32 wherein said carrier member is fixedly secured to said rear body panel.

36. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 28 wherein said body panel comprises a landing member, wherein said at least two engagement portions are releasably engaged with said landing member.

37. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 32 wherein said front and rear body panels have substantially the same width.

Claims 38-50 (Cancelled).

51. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:
a body panel having a length defined along a longitudinal direction and opposite side edges; and

a unitary fastening member comprising at least two independently moveable tab members each having an engagement portion independently releasably and

refastenably engaging said body panel, wherein said tab members extend laterally inward in the same direction from the same one of said side edges of said front body panel and wherein said tab members are offset from each other in said longitudinal direction, each of said engagement portions having an engagement length, wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is at least about 20% of said body panel length, wherein said fastening member is fixedly secured to said body panel at a location proximate said one of said side edges and wherein said at least two independently moveable tab members each have a free edge positioned laterally inward from said location and said one of said side edges of said body panel.

52. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:

a body panel having a length defined a longitudinal direction and opposite side edges; and

a unitary fastening member comprising a carrier member defining at least two independently moveable tab members extending laterally inward in the same direction from the same one of said side edges of said body panel and an engagement portion disposed on each of said tab members and wherein said tab members are offset from each other in said longitudinal direction, wherein said engagement portions independently releasably and refastenably engage said body panel, and wherein each of said engagement portions has an engagement length, wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is at least about 20% of said body panel length, wherein said fastening member is fixedly secured to said body panel at a location proximate said one of said side edges and wherein said at least two independently moveable tab members each have a free edge positioned laterally inward from said location and said one of said side edges of said body panel.

53. (Previously Presented) The absorbent garment of claim 52 wherein said fastening member is fixedly secured to a garment side of said body panel and wherein said engagement portions independently releasably and refastenably engage said garment side of said body panel.

54. (Previously Presented) The absorbent garment of claim 51 wherein said fastening member is fixedly secured to a garment side of said body panel and wherein said engagement portions independently releasably and refastenably engage said garment side of said body panel.

55. (New) The absorbent garment of claim 15 wherein said offset tab members of each of said fastening members form a valley therebetween, wherein a shape of said valley is complimentary to and mates with a shape of each of said tab members.

56. (New) The absorbent garment of claim 28 wherein said offset tab members of said unitary fastening member form a valley therebetween, wherein a shape of said valley is complimentary to and mates with a shape of each of said tab members.

Conclusion:

Applicants respectfully request that the arguments made in the prior amendment filed January 23, 2006 be considered with respect to the current claim amendments. If Applicants have misunderstood the substance of the action, then Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to identify with specificity which claims are not in compliance so that Applicants may rectify any further errors. The Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4713 if any questions remain.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: May 3, 2006

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Stover', is written over a horizontal line.

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